

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14

STR-08 TAR-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

DRC-01 /214 W

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P 302205Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1415

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 5701

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 12-31-74

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GT

SUBJECT: SUGAR: SHIPMENTS TO U.S. IN 1974 (AND 1973)

REF: STATE 234499

1. GUATEMALAN SUGAR PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, WITH CURRENT U.S. QUOTA AND PRORATIONS FOR 1974 TOTALING 70,075 SHORT TONS, PLANS FOLLOWING FOR CY 1974 (ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REFTTEL):
(A) TOTAL PRODUCTION WILL BE ESTIMATED 330,000 ST RAW VALUE, OF WHICH 200,000 WILL BE FOR DOMESTIC MARKET, 90,000 SET ASIDE FOR U.S. MARKET, AND 40,000 FOR U.S. OR WORLD MARKET. U.S. WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE, AS USUAL, SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY. MONTHLY SHIPMENTS WILL DEPEND CONSIDERABLY ON DEMAND AND MARKET, BUT SPOKESMAN SAID GUATEMALA HAS RATHER CONSISTENT RECORD OF SHIPPING U.S. QUOTA IN FIRST FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS OF CROP YEAR. GENERALLY, HE SAID, ASSOCIATION LIKES TO SHIP ABOUT 60-70,000 TONS BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND JUNE.

(B) NO SHORTFALL ANTICIPATED. AS NOTED IN (A), ABOVE, ASSOCIATION WILL QUOTE SET ASIDE UNQUOTE 90,000 TONS FOR U.S. MARKET, OR 20,000 MORE THAN CURRENT QUOTA LEVEL. U.S. ALSO WILL HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FIRST CALL ON ADDITIONAL 40,000 ST.

2. RELATED C 1973 SUGAR QUESTION: GUATEMALA STILL MUST SHIP ABOUT 15,000 ST UNDER 1973 QUOTA. BUYER OF SOME 25,000 TONS SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY JANUARY-MARCH 1973 ASKED THAT DELIVERY BE POSTPONED TO JULY-AUGUST. ASSOCIATION AGREED AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN SHIPPING THE 25,000 IN SMALL LOTS OF 2-3,000 TONS, AND NOW ONLY ABOUT 5,000 REMAINS (OF 25,000). GOG ISSUED EXPORT PERMIT NOV. 22. ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY IS LOADING 3,000 ST IN ONE SHIP, AND PLANNING TO LOAD REMAINING 2,000 IN SHIP ARRIVING TODAY. BUT YESTERDAY, GOG CANCELED EXPORT PERMIT ON PERSONAL ORDERS PRESIDENT ARANA, WHO TOLD PRESS THAT WHILE THERE WAS SHORTAGE OF BASIC FOODS ON LOCAL MARKET HE WOULD NOT PERMIT EXPORTS.

3. ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ASSURING MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE THAT PLENTY OF SUGAR IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION, AND REPORTEDLY MINISTERS ARE QUOTE MORE OR LESS CONVINCED UNQUOTE. HAVE ARRANGED ASSOCIATION INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT. FIVE MILLS ARE CURRENTLY GRINDING NEW CROP, AND TWO MORE WILL BEGIN DECEMBER 3.

4. ASSOCIATION SAYS THERE WILL BE NO REPEAT NO TROUBLE FILING BALANCE U.S. QUOTA IN DECEMBER AS SOON AS GOG IS ASSURED DOMESTIC MARKET IS AMPLY CARED FOR.
DREYFUSS

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